

CONTRACT: Concern raised on board about flexibility

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the next couple of years.”

The district’s cost to provide health insurance for certified employees will go up, following a trend in that direction. Business Manager Sherry Joseph said the district will pay about \$35 more per employee in both contract years.

Board member Stephen King asked Swisher if the contract allows for flexibility such as increasing the number of school days each year or adjusting class sizes. Swisher replied that those changes would require negotiations to be re-opened.

King noted the district has long had a goal of being one of the best in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. He wondered aloud whether the new contract will prove too restricting, preventing changes that could provide better educational opportunities for students.

“That’s been our goal — to raise that bar,” King said. “How can we move in that

direction with these constraints in place? I feel like we’re being a little locked in for two years.”

However, board chairman Jeff Smith said quality teaching is the foundation of good education. It’s more important than extra school days or more AP classes, he said.

King supported the contract when it came time to vote, despite indicating he would have preferred language to allow an expanded school year.

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Superintendent Curt Scholl said financial limitations are a reality the district must live with for now.

“Our constraint really is what our budget is,” he said. “Our budget doesn’t support (more school days) at this point.”

Two-year-old killed in Hwy. 20 wreck

A two-year-old girl was killed in a traffic accident east of Sisters on Sunday, September 11.

OSP Troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a multiple vehicle crash on Highway 20 near milepost 12.5 west of Tumalo at about 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a black 2000 Toyota Tacoma, operated by David Fincher, age 45, of Sherwood, was travelling eastbound when he lost control negotiating a corner and crossed into the oncoming lane of travel. The Tacoma collided with two separate westbound vehicles, a gray 2014 Volkswagen Jetta, operated by Sarah Peterson, age 37, of Bend, and passengers, female child, age two, and a male child, age seven; and a gray 2016 Dodge Charger, operated by Alexander Perkins, age 28, of Bend and passenger Ashley Perkins, age 27, of Bend.

The 2-year-old female child passenger suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The



PHOTO COURTESY OSP

David Fincher of Sherwood was charged with manslaughter in connection with a terrible wreck on Highway 20 on Sunday.

remaining occupants were transported to St. Charles Medical Center for treatment of their injuries.

Fincher was arrested and lodged in Deschutes County Jail for Manslaughter 2nd Degree. Additional charges include DUII, alcohol, and 5 counts of 3rd Degree Assault (DUII).

Highway 20 was closed for approximately three hours following the crash. One lane was opened for two hours until both lanes were reopened.

OSP was assisted by the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office, Deschutes County Rural Fire District and Oregon

Department of Transportation (ODOT).

OSP is seeking the public’s assistance for additional witnesses or persons with information. It is believed a bicyclist just west of the crash location was nearly struck by Fincher in the moments leading up to the crash. Anyone who knows the identity of the bicyclist or who has additional information regarding the crash is asked to contact Senior Trooper Jason Hanson at 541-388-6213 or the Oregon State Police Northern Command Center at 503-375-3555 (reference OSP case no. SP16308856).

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